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NYCFC looks to move on from worst loss in franchise history. 31

COOKING THEIR CONSCIENCE

Three chefs aim for sustainability — and better health. 26

Under-the-radar destinations. 29

NOSEDIVE

Mayor's approval rating plunges to lowest level in poll showing pay-for-play allegations are taking a toll. 2

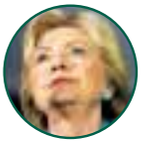
41%

Percent of New Yorkers saying they approve of the mayor, according to the Quinnipiac University poll.

GETTY IMAGES

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

INSPECTOR GENERAL: HILLARY CLINTON VIOLATED EMAIL POLICY

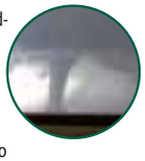


Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state broke government rules and was not approved by State Department security officials, according to an internal government watchdog's report released Wednesday. Clinton's use of the private email server in her home in Chappaqua, New York, for government purposes has prompted several investigations, including an ongoing probe by the FBI. The report by the department's inspector general cited "longstanding, systemic weaknesses" with State Department records that predated Clinton's tenure, and found problems with the email record-keeping of some of her predecessors. REUTERS

TSA HEAD: US AIRPORTS STILL UNDERSTAFFED FOR PEAK TRAVEL TIMES

2 The Transportation Security Administration is taking several steps to shorten airport lines including moving officers to different posts, but still lacks the staffing to handle peak travel times, Administrator Peter Neffenger said in a congressional hearing Wednesday. According to Neffenger, TSA is seeing how it can redeploy officers who are trained to detect irregular passenger behavior to posts where they check traveler documents, thereby freeing up others to staff the physical screening machines. "There are efficiencies we can gain in the way we deploy our people," Neffenger said. A shortage of staff and a surge in air travelers has created a nightmare scenario for the agency, with airport wait times in places like Chicago having stretched beyond two hours. REUTERS

TORNADOS, STORMS HIT PLAINS STATES



3 Two people were critically injured and buildings were damaged in southwest Kansas as several tornados and storms hit the Great Plains, a local official and a meteorologist said Wednesday. The two injured people in Ford County, Kansas, were brought to a local hospital for treatment and had been released, according to J.D. Gilbert, interim county administrator and spokesman for the county. As many as six unconfirmed tornados hit an area west of Dodge City, Gilbert said, destroying some homes and a county building with offices and landfill equipment. Farms and ranches were also damaged, he said. A tornado was also reported in Oklahoma, just west of Tulsa, along with severe storms in the area Tuesday evening, said Ariel Cohen, meteorologist at the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. REUTERS

De Blasio's approval rating at low point in corruption scandal

New poll numbers an ominous sign for politician who was elected as a good-government reformer.

JASON NUCKOLLS and ANGY ALTAMIRANO
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De Blasio GETTY IMAGES

Mayor Bill de Blasio's approval ratings slid to a new low in a poll released Wednesday, a sign that allegations of corruption could drive him out of City Hall after one term.

De Blasio's overall job approval rating was the worst since he took office in January 2014, with 41 percent of New Yorkers saying they approve of the mayor, according to the Quinnipiac University poll. Fifty-two percent said that de Blasio does not deserve re-election.

"It's premature to call Bill de Blasio a one-term mayor. This is just one poll, of course," said Jeffrey Smith, assistant professor of politics and advocacy at the New School's Milano School of International Affairs said.

"But it definitely contains ominous signs," he continued. "For a majority of voters to believe that a guy who ran as a good-government reformer routinely engages in pay-to-play politics suggests that his original brand is perhaps irreparably tainted."

Smith added that the drop in de Blasio's approval rating doesn't mean the mayor is doomed, but it does mean he would "likely need to fashion a somewhat different electoral coalition next year" to regain the trust from New Yorkers. He also said that, if confirmed by similar findings, the poll could push others who are considering challenging de Blasio for the mayoral seat to finally pull the trigger.

"The number and variety of pending investigations means that the bad press may be just beginning for de Blasio, as each investigation will produce documents, subpoenas and potential offenses by de Blasio aides or associates," Smith said. "It's going to be a long, hot summer for a mayor whose notoriously poor relationships with the media are not going to help him weather this storm."

> *"It's going to be a long, hot summer for a mayor whose notoriously poor relationships with the media are not going to help him weather this storm."*
>
> Smith

The polling, one of the first since a federal and state inquiry into de Blasio's questionable fundraising activities was launched earlier this year, found that 53 percent of New Yorkers disapprove of the way de Blasio has handled the allegations of corruption.

Fifty-five percent of New Yorkers polled believe de Blasio "does favors for developers who make political contributions to campaigns in which he is involved." Of those who believe he engages in pay-for-play politics, 54 percent said his actions are unethical but not illegal.

"With a virtual wildfire of news stories about corruption investigations, voters think Mayor Bill de Blasio has favored well-connected real estate people," Quinnipiac University Poll Assistant Director Maurice Carroll stated.

"Heading into his re-election year, Mayor Bill de Blasio is not in good political shape. His job approval hits rock bottom, and he even is losing ground among black and Hispanic voters," Carroll said.

From May 18 to 23, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,038 New York City voters by phone. The poll had an error margin of plus or minus 3 percent.

Karen Hinton, press secretary for the mayor, dismissed the poll as "nothing but loaded questions."

"It's like asking voters if they approve of robbing little old ladies," Hinton said. "Contrary to the poll's premise, this mayor is requiring developers to build affordable housing, and he is the first mayor to do so in the city's history."

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Cecilia Fianka of the Nneka Youth Foundation in Ghana was presented with an award and Jolie Jones, right, spoke. BESS ADLER

New York hosts Child 10 awards honoring leaders in fight against abuse, trafficking of children

This year's awardees come from organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States.

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Leaders from across the globe came together in New York City to celebrate their continuous efforts to help halt one of the fastest growing illegal businesses in the world.

The Sophie Stenbeck Family Foundation and Reach for Change hosted the Child 10 Awards Luncheon on Wednesday afternoon, during which they celebrated 10 individuals who have fought to protect children from abuse and trafficking.

An estimated 100,000 to 300,000 children from the United States are involved in sex trafficking, according to Child 10. These children are part of a total of about 2 million children who are exploited yearly around the world.

"We committed to finding the 10 grassroots leaders from around the world who are fighting the trafficking and abuse of children," said Sophie Steinbeck, president of the Sophie Stenbeck Family Foundation. "It is so satisfying to see these problems being recognized now and great advances like cutting edge technology is being developed to find exploited and trafficked children. This was unimaginable 15 years ago."

Since awarding a set of leaders back in 2014 with the first Child 10 summit in Stockholm, this marked the first time the Child 10 Awards made its way to the United States.

To launch the first American event in New York City, Child 10 partnered with Jolie Jones, daughter of Quincy Jones, who was also one of the speakers at the event. Award-winning journalist Tina Brown was also the host of the event.

"Modern-day slavery is real in our lives. It's not just something that happens in a faraway land," Jones said. "It's happening here, and although it seems unthinkable, right here in this country, U.S. citizens and our very own children are being exploited."

"Modern-day slavery is real in our lives. It's not just something that happens in a faraway land. It's happening here, and although it seems unthinkable, right here in this country, U.S. citizens and our very own children are being exploited."

Jones

The honorees at the Child 10 Awards included Adoumkidjim Naiban of the Special Education Center for Children (CESER) in Chad; Anuradha Koirala of Maiti in Nepal; Arkan Asaad of Right 2 Choose in Sweden; Brenda-Deborah Shuma of the Gabrielle Centre in Tanzania; Cecilia Fiaka of Nneka Youth Foundation in Ghana; Cecilia Flores-Oebanda of the Visayan Forum Foundation in the Philippines; Elin Wernquist of The Child Rights' Bureau in Sweden; Katie Albright of San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center in the United States; Kiiya JK of C-Sema in Tanzania; and Susan Sabaa of CRRECENT in Ghana.

Fiaka works to support rural communities in Ghana to combat teenage pregnancy and drug abuse and offers summer camps and youth development seminars.

"When we bring [the girls] together we are able to let them know that, yes, you can make it; yes, you can become somebody in society," Fiaka said.

For Susan Sabaa, the mission for her organization, CRRECENT, is to support the reintegration of juvenile offenders and run crime-prevention programs for children at risk.

According to Sabaa, 40 percent of crimes in Ghana are by people between 15 and 24 years old.

"These are not criminals, they are victims. They are victims because they did not get the kind of opportunity you and I got growing up," Sabaa said. "One child lost to crime is one too many, and one child saved from crime is [not] enough."

Anuradha Koirala, was honored for the work she has done in Nepal to help prevent trafficking along what is considered one of the busiest slave trafficking routers in the world.

Koirala also works to provide education, information and economic empowerment while also enforcing border surveillance. She helps also free girls from brothels in India, transporting them to Nepal and helping them get rehabilitated.

"Close your eyes, think each child as your daughter. The pain from your heart will come and then only you will think that you have to do something for this child," she said. "Let's join hands together and make this world a better place for girls and women to live and lets make this society a trafficking-free society."

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Inside Look: You can own these celebrity apartments

Here's a peek at how the other half lives.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA
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From Broadway to the red carpet and the courtroom, these celebrity owners have used their money to invest in New York City real estate — and now they are ready to sell (hopefully for a profit).

Mellon's 3 East 95th Street DOUGLASELLIMAN; ALL CELEBRITY PHOTOS ARE GETTY IMAGES

Tamara Mellon

The Carhart Mansion penthouse, at 3 E. 95th St. on the Upper East Side, was reportedly put up for sale in 2014 by fashion designer Tamara Mellon.

According to the New York Times, the Jimmy Choo founder bought the place in 2008 for $21 million. She put it on the market five years later for $34 million.

Currently listed at $27 million, the duplex features five bedrooms and four-and-half baths in 7,140 square feet. There is direct elevator access opening to a large center hall gallery with herringbone oak floors; a custom fitted windowed dressing room; and wrap-around terrace. The landmarked building also boasts a limestone facade with carved panels.

Chastain's 250 Mercer St. DOUGLASELLIMAN

Jessica Chastain

Oscar-nominated actress Jessica Chastain is also selling her downtown residence — located at 250 Mercer St. in Greenwich Village.

The listing for this two bedroom, two bath, describes it as "renovated" and "turn-key ready" with "prewar charm."

Chastain's duplex also features 10.5-foot ceilings, a wood-burning fireplace and oak circular staircase. The second floor's master bedroom has "open city views" and a "massive" cedar closet.

The home is also available for rent: $7,995 furnished or $8,450 unfurnished.

Cumming's 297 East 10th St. DOUGLASELLIMAN

Alan Cumming

The Scottish actor, most recently known for his role as Eli Gold in "The Good Wife," as well as his numerous other film, TV and stage credits — including his Tony award-winning performance in "Cabaret" — has his East Village home on the market.

Located at 297 E. 10th St., the full-floor four-bedroom co-op overlooks Tompkins Square Park.

"It's an amazingly charming home," said broker Noble Black of Douglas Elliman. "You can hear birds chirping, there are green leafy views from every window including over Tompkins Square Park, beautiful prewar details, a gorgeous wood-burning fireplace and a layout that's perfect for entertaining. It's a truly special apartment."

Miriam Cedarbaum

A notable person in New York law, Miriam Cedarbaum's name may not be instantly recognizable, but some of the defendants who have appeared in her courtroom are. She was the judge for the notorious Martha Stewart trial, as well as the trial of attempted Times Square bomber Faisal Shahzad.

A federal judge for the Southern District of New York, Cedarbaum died in February at the age of 86.

Her 201 E. 62nd St. home is now listed for $1,990,000, and is described as a "spacious classic six."

There is also a windowed eat-in kitchen with washer/dryer, and three bedrooms — all have en-suite bathrooms with soaking tubs.

The building additionally has a full-time doorman, elevator staff and health club.

Cedarbaum's 201 East 62nd St. DOUGLASELLIMAN

Martha Stewart was a defendant in one of Cedarbaum's cases

Marc Bern

Marc Bern and the law firm he founded has made headlines for representing 9/11 first responders and those affected by the Flint water crisis.

His 944 Park Ave. penthouse is on the market for $11,995,000.

The 10-room residence takes up the entire floor and 3,400 square feet. Features include wood floors, high-beamed ceilings, a wood-burning fireplace, oversize windows and Central Park views.

Bern's 944 Park Ave. PROVIDED

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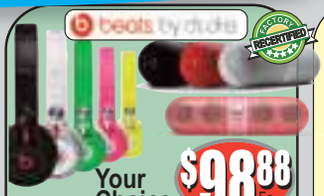

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Beth Israel Hospital in the East Village to shut as new, smaller facility promised

The closure is part of a bigger trend in NYC hospitals, where financial losses have driven a number of facilities to fold.

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The East Village's Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital, which operates at around 60 percent capacity on an average day, has announced it will close after years of losing money.

Mount Sinai Health System, which owns the Beth Israel facility, has plans to open a smaller hospital at 14th Street and Second Avenue, with 70 beds and an emergency room, once Beth Israel closes in the next four years, NY1 reported. Beth Israel has lost $250 million since 2012.

"What we are dealing with is an infrastructure that is old, a facility that isn't efficient, and it lives in the most competitive environment on planet Earth in health care," Mount Sinai Beth Israel CEO Dr. Kenneth Davis said to NY1.

The closure announcement is part of a bigger trend in New York City hospitals, where financial losses have driven a number of facilities to close, the Wall Street Journal reported. Since 2008, Cabrini Medical Center in Gramercy Park, St. Vincent's in Greenwich Village and Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn have all closed.

"We are not diminishing, in any way, the services," Davis said to the Journal, which stated that the hospital requires fewer beds as technology and outpatient care have driven down the need for hospital stays.

Earlier in May, local politicians representing the area wrote a joint letter to Davis as they were concerned about the possibility of declining medical services in the neighborhood, Crain's New York reported.

"Any downsizing or closure at Beth Israel threatens to further strain an already overburdened network of health-care providers in Manhattan, reduce health-care options and curtail services in the immediate neighborhood and eliminate jobs," the local politicians' letter was quoted by Crain's.

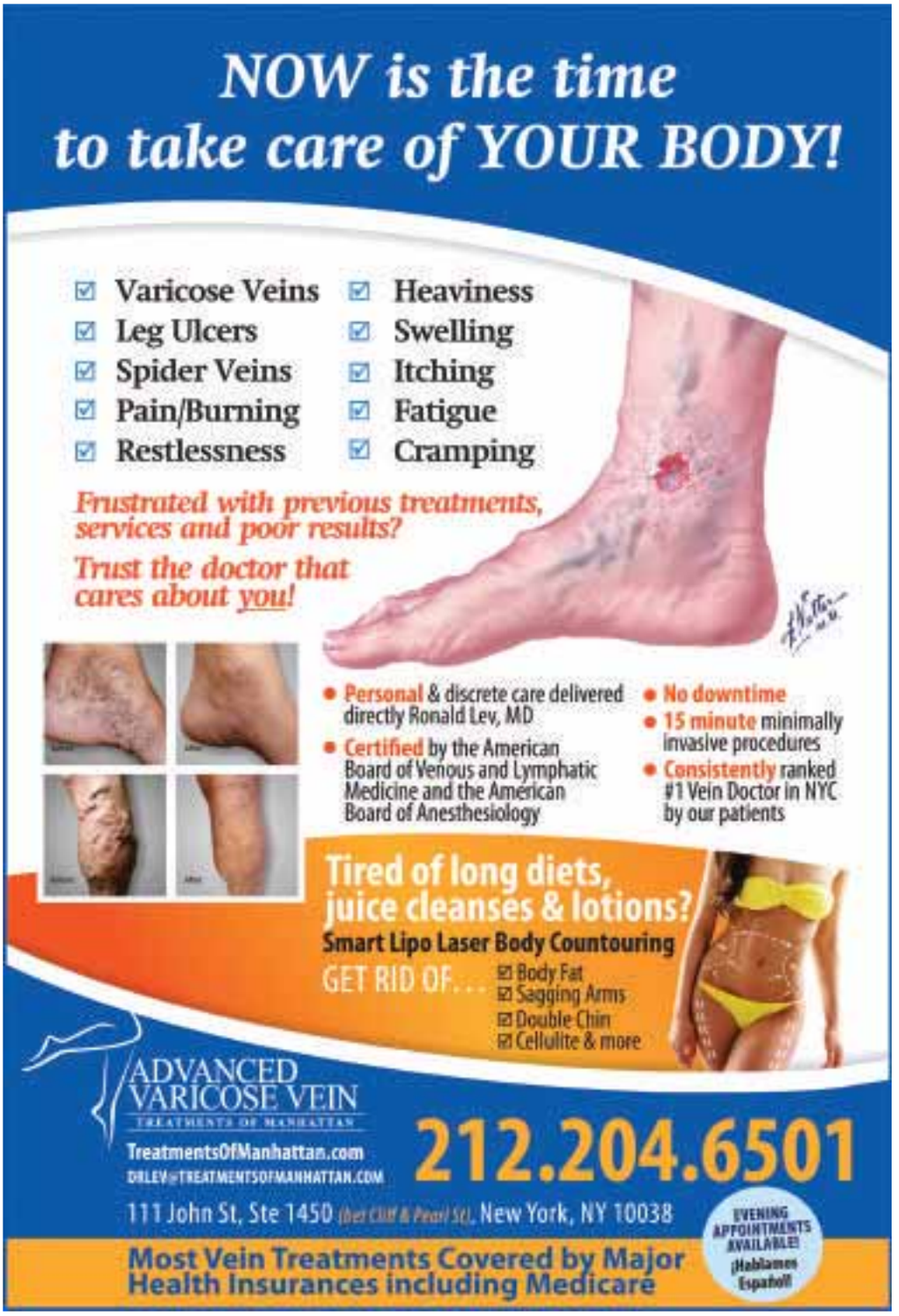
Between 600 and 700 nonunion Beth Israel employees were expected to lose their jobs because of the closure, but hospital officials have said that retraining and other job services would be available, the Journal added.

"Every emergency that has been taken care of in the past will be taken care of in the future. Every clinical need that they had has been taken care of in the past [and] will be taken care of as well, if not better, in the future," Dr. Davis was quoted by NY1. "The only thing I ask [people] to understand is that it may not be in that one place — it will be distributed over downtown."

Beth Israel GOOGLE MAPS

"Any downsizing or closure at Beth Israel threatens to further strain an already overburdened network of health-care providers in Manhattan."

The letter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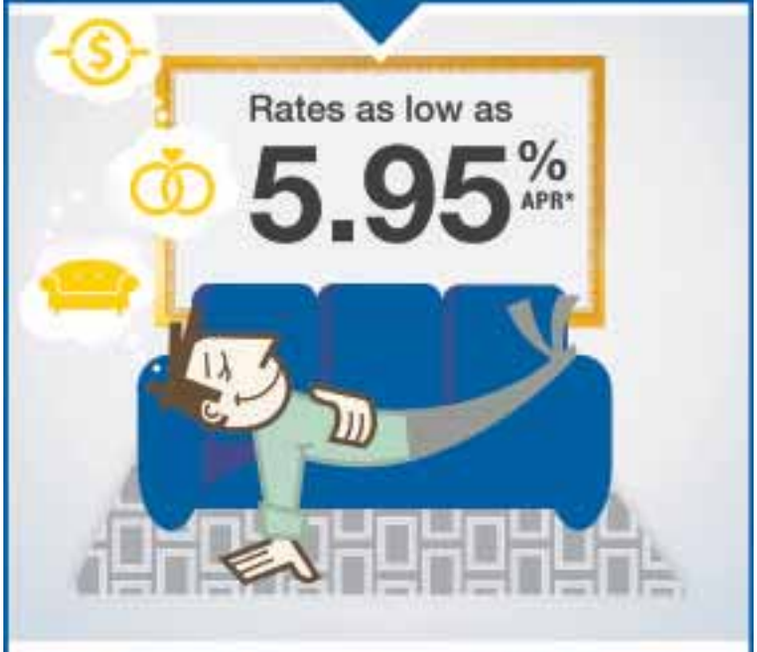

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NYPD seeks suspect in Park Slope street attack, rape attempt

The victim fought back against the attacker and yelled for help.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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A sketch of the suspect and the dark-colored four-door Acura driven by the suspect **NYPD**

Police are looking for a man they say tried to rape a woman on a Park Slope street over the weekend.

Around 4:30 a.m. on Sunday, a 21-year-old woman was walking on Second Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues when she was approached from behind by a man who grabbed her genitals over her underwear, police stated.

The suspect then pushed the woman to the ground and pulled off her underwear in an attempt to rape her, police added. The victim fought back against the attacker and yelled for help.

The man ran to a dark-colored four-door Acura and fled westbound on Second Street, according to police.

Authorities described the suspect as a Hispanic or Indian man, 20 to 25 years old and 5-foot-8 to 6 feet tall and between 170 and 180 pounds. He was last seen wearing light-colored shorts and a light-colored shirt.

Do you have information?

Anyone with information should call NYPD's Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS or, for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA. The public can also submit tips at www.NYPDcrimestoppers.com.

Police: Man stalking girl through subway

The stalking suspect **PROVIDED**

The NYPD is asking for the public's help to find a man a young girl said has been stalking her on the subway.

Acccording to police, at about 8 a.m. on Friday, April 15, the 16-year-old girl boarded the northbound G train at 4th Avenue and 9th Street subway station, when a man was following her toward the Fulton Street subway station.

The girl exited the train at Fulton Street subway station and the man remained on the G train.

The girl told police the man followed her four other times at multiple subway stations in February, April and May of this year. She did not report any injuries.

Police have released a photo of the man — taken by the victim with her cellphone — and describe him as Asian, in his late 40s, 5 feet 3 inches tall, 170 pounds and with black hair. He was last seen wearing blue jeans, a blue overcoat and wearing glasses.

Anyone with information about the behavior is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS.

You can also submit tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website or texting the info to 274637(CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

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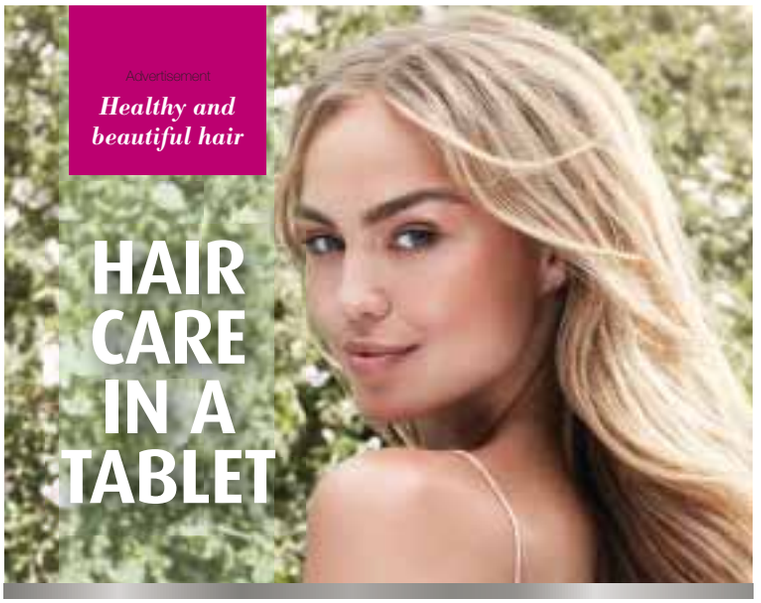

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Listen to Smokey the Bear, not the Internet, kids. YOUTUBE

Police: Queens boy severely burned imitating 'fire challenge' video

12-year-old in critical condition with third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

A Queens boy was in critical condition Wednesday after police say he set himself on fire mimicking a "fire challenge" he saw on YouTube.

On May 24 around 10 p.m., the unidentified 12-year-old went into a bathroom inside his Far Rockaway home and poured rubbing alcohol on his body, according to authorities.

The boy — who was not alone at home — then set himself on fire, police said. When he realized that he could not put out the blaze, the boy ran out of his home and onto the street where a neighbor helped extinguish the fire.

The child was taken to Nassau University Medical Center with third-degree burns over more than 40 percent of his body, according to the New York Post.

Police said initial reports show that the boy had decided to set himself on fire after watching a YouTube video in which others performed the same act as part of a "fire challenge."

The investigation is ongoing.

It was not clear which video in particular the young boy was imitating, but according to the Daily Mail this social media craze began in 2014.

As part of the challenge, primarily teens pour either nail polish remover, hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol on their bodies, set themselves on fire and then try to quickly extinguish the flames.

Since it started the challenge has left various teens badly injured and in one case a 15-year-old boy from Buffalo, New York, died while attempting the "challenge."

An 11-year-old boy in England had to undergo emergency skin graft surgery as a result of the burns he received after setting himself on fire, the Daily Mail reported.

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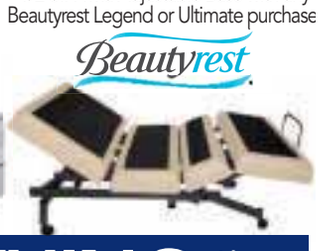

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Migrants in an overcrowded boat, which was about to capsize, in Mediterranean sea Wednesday. ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

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			3 people	$36,515 - $46,620
			4 people	$36,515 - $51,780

* Rent includes gas for cooking.
** Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.
*** Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change

How Do You Apply? Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418.** Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline? Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **July 26,2016**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application? After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: **St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**.En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de **26** de julio 2016.

访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至：**St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**.. 信封背面请用英语注明"CHINESE"。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请2016年7月 日

Русский Чтобы подать заявление через интернет, зайдите на сайт: nyc.gov/housingconnect. Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу **St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**.. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово"RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заявки должны быть поданы онлайн или отправлены по почте (согласно дате на почтовом штемпеле) не позднее **26** июль 2016.

nyc.gov/housingconnect 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 반송용 봉투를**St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418.**으로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주십시오. 2016 년7월 일까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.

Kreyòl Ayisyien Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb nyc.gov/housingconnect. Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye anvlòp ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: **St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. Nan dèyè anvlòp la, ekri mo "HATIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat jiyè **26**, 2016

العربية تقدم بطلب عن طريق الإنترنت على الموقع الإلكتروني nyc.gov/housingconnect. للحصول على ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان ولنموذج الطلب الورقي، أرسل مظروف يحمل اسمك وعنوانك إلى: **St. Marks Place, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. على الجهة الخلفية للمظروف، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب إرسال نماذج الطلبات عن طريق الإنترنت أو ختمها بختم البريد قبل **26** يوليو، 2016.

Mayor Bill de Blasio • HPD Commissioner Vicki Been

Italian navy says migrant boat flipped; five dead

Photographs show the blue fishing boat rocking violently before capsizing, sending migrants tumbling into the sea. Some climbed onto the hull of the overturned vessel, while others swam for life boats or toward the navy ship.

A large wooden fishing boat overcrowded with migrants capsized off the coast of Libya, the Italian navy said Wednesday, with some 562 people rescued and five found dead.

Navy swimmers are also shown pulling migrants in lifebelts toward safety, according to the navy pictures. Women and children were among those rescued, but no details of the migrants' nationalities have been given.

The Italian navy patrol boat Bettica saw the vessel was in difficulty and approached it to hand out life jackets, but before it could begin a rescue the boat flipped over due to the sudden movement of the passengers, a statement said.

Navy frigate Bergamini deployed a helicopter, and several rubber motor boats were used in the rescue operations, which have now concluded.

The Bettica has already responded to another call for help and is in the process of rescuing 108 migrants from a large rubber boat, the navy said.

Boat arrivals rose sharply this week amid warm weather and calm seas. Italy's coast guard said 5,600 migrants were rescued Monday and Tuesday, and officials fear numbers will increase as conditions continue to improve.

In the past two years, more than 320,000 boat migrants have arrived on Italian shores, and an estimated have 7,000 died in the Mediterranean as they sought to reach Europe.

REUTERS

Migrants in a capsized boat. ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES)

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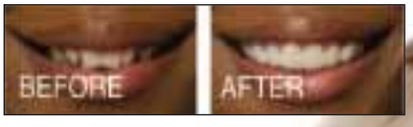

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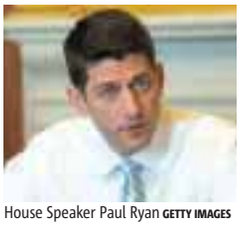
House Speaker Ryan says he hasn't decided on Trump

The 46-year-old speaker is the only member of the Republican congressional leadership who has not formally embraced the presumptive GOP nominee.


House Speaker Paul Ryan GETTY IMAGES

Paul Ryan, the top U.S. elected Republican, on Wednesday continued to withhold his support from Donald Trump for the party's presidential nomination, saying he is not ready to endorse the real estate billionaire, a political neophyte.

Ryan, the speaker of the House of Representatives, brushed aside reports that he was ready to endorse Trump during a meeting with reporters in the Capitol. "I haven't made a decision," he said, adding that he had no timetable for doing so.

Trump's ascent has shaken the party establishment and raised concerns among some Republicans over whether they can unify behind him, given his harsh rhetoric and shifting policy positions in a brutal primary fight that once had 17 candidates.

Ryan was asked Wednesday about Trump's comment this week that New Mexico Republican Gov. Susana Martinez, who had declined to attend a Trump rally, was not doing her job.

Ryan said Martinez was a "great governor" and "a friend of mine," and said he would leave it at that.

Ryan said his staff and Trump's were in contact virtually daily.

"I want this to be a sincere, deliberative process," Ryan said. He dismissed suggestions that the Trump campaign was trying to pressure him, saying, "I don't worry about that stuff."

The speaker faces pressure from inside his party to smooth things over and form a united front against likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in November. REUTERS

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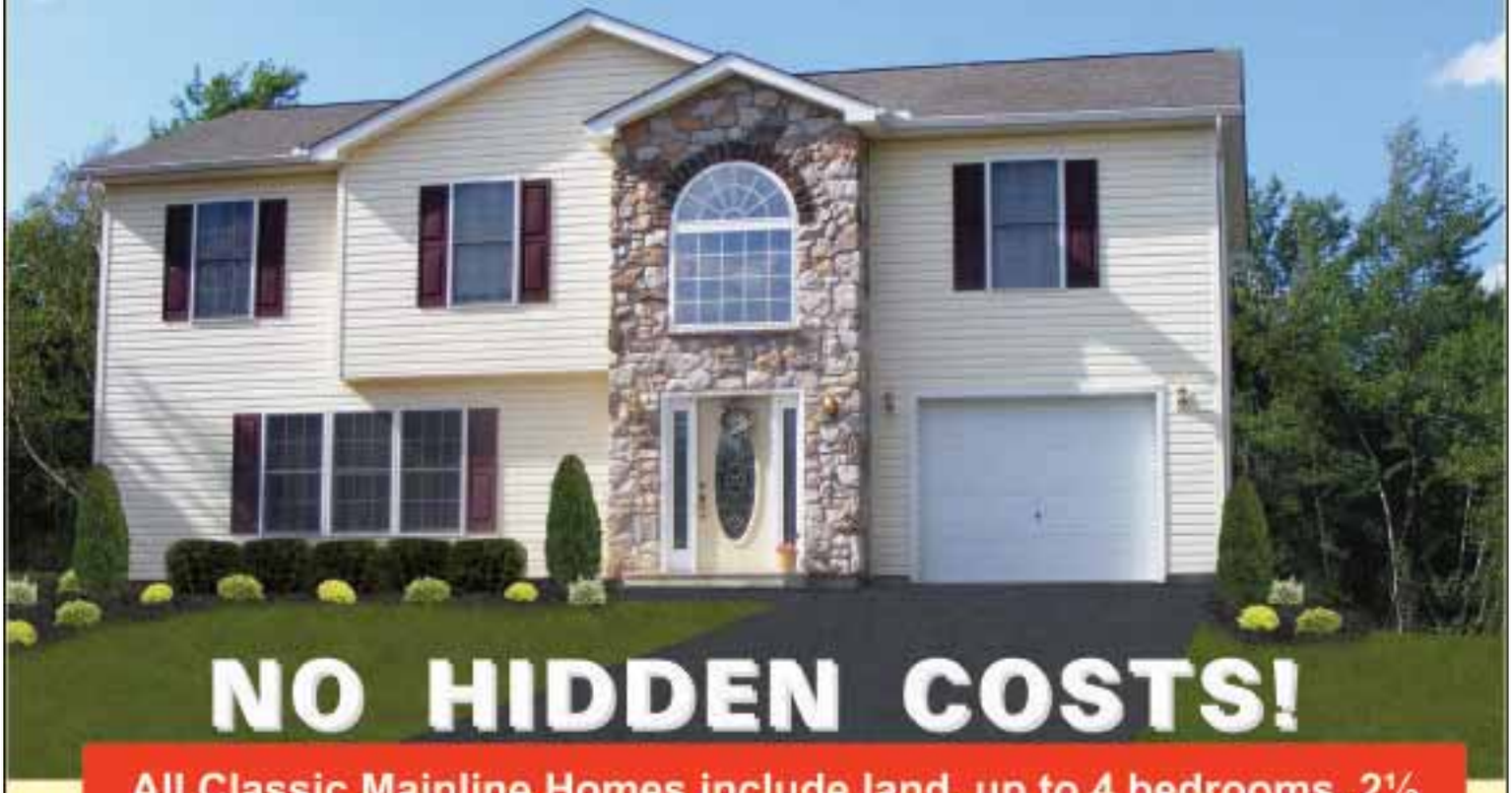

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Travelers are screened by TSA workers at a security check point at O'Hare Airport in Chicago. GETTY IMAGES

Senators urge House to move on the aviation-security bill

The top members of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee have urged their counterparts in the House of Representatives to move forward on Senate legislation to boost aviation security and authorize the programs of the Federal Aviation Administration.

In a May 24 letter released Wednesday, the senate panel's Republican chairman, John Thune of South Dakota, and its top Democrat, Bill Nelson of Florida, cautioned House lawmakers that Congress has only six weeks left to approve legislation before an FAA funding patch expires in mid-July.

The letter, addressed to House Transportation Chairman Bill Schuster of Pennsylvania and that panel's top Democrat, Peter DeFazio of Oregon, urged movement on a Senate bill that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support last month.

"We believe that this legislation represents a model for House action, which is essential to avoiding another round of funding extensions that will be disruptive to the aviation industry and only delay much-needed reforms," Thune and Nelson said. REUTERS

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- Manhattan-bound Q trains run via the D from **Stillwell Av** to **Atlantic Av-Barclays Ctr**.

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- Q shuttle trains run between **Stillwell Av** and **Kings Hwy**.
- Transfer between shuttle trains and D F Q at **Stillwell Av**.
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- Transfer between free shuttle buses and trains at **Atlantic Av-Barclays Ctr** or **Kings Hwy**.
- Take the F for service between **West 8 St** and **Manhattan**.

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1. DiMeo PJ. Psychosocial and Relationship Issues in Men with Erectile Dysfunction. Urologic Nursing. 2006 Dec; 26(6): 442-453.

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Eleven states sue US government over transgender bathroom policy

Eleven U.S. states sued the Obama administration Wednesday, seeking to overturn a directive from the federal government this month that public schools should allow transgender students to use the bathroom matching their gender identity.

Ramping up the culture wars in America, the states, led by Texas, accused the federal government of rewriting laws by "administrative fiat."

"Defendants have conspired to turn workplace and educational settings across the country into laboratories for a massive social experiment,

A gender-neutral sign GETTY IMAGES

flouting the democratic process and running roughshod over commonsense policies protecting children and basic privacy rights," the lawsuit stated.

Nine of the 11 states are led by Republican governors.

Amid a national debate over transgender rights, the Obama administration May 13 told U.S. public schools transgender students must be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice, upsetting Republicans and raising the likelihood of fights over federal funding and legal authority.

The state of Texas is the lead plaintiff and was joined by Alabama, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Utah and Georgia, plus the Arizona Department of Education and the governor of Maine. REUTERS

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the word

Gillian Anderson adds her name to the list of next Bonds

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Men's rights activists, activate! The future of James Bond may be female. Or maybe it will just be another dapper white Englishman. With Daniel Craig maybe (or maybe not!) out, the Internet has quickly taken to finding a seventh 007. Already we've gotten pitches for Tom Hiddleston, Damien Lewis and Jamie Bell — or this wretched world could be unfairly gifted with (almost) everyone's favorite choice: Idris Elba. But Gillian Anderson has an idea: What about her? Over Twitter the "X-Files" alum teased a poster of her looking badass, accompanied by the words "It's Bond. Jane Bond." It's not clear how serious she is, but still, can the Internet even handle this? When even the guy who writes the Bond novels freaked out at the idea of a black Bond, won't the idea of making him a her cause old guard bros to implode a la Yaphet Kotto at the end of "Live and Let Die"? Or maybe we shouldn't be worried about those guys.

Jay Z finally sort of comments on 'Lemonade'

Just when we had finally moved past Becky and her good hair, Jay Z has to go digging up his own dirty laundry again with a remix of Fat Joe and Remy Ma's "All the Way Up," which dropped Wednesday. Beyonce's husband raps this line, and we, like Beyonce herself, are left to deal with it: "You know you made it/When the fact your marriage made it is worth millions/Lemonade is a popular drink and it still is."

The "Lemonade" line is stolen/borrowed/sampled from Gang Starr's 1992 track "DWYCK," and the Internet has declared it far too close to branded content to be ignored. And while it's not as straightforward as, "Hey, I'm sorry I cheated on you, my awesome perfect goddess of a wife," it's a start, because the first step in any recovery program is acceptance. However, Beyonce's lesser half wants you to pay (or sign up for a free 30-day trial) of his streaming music service before you can listen and decide for yourself.

Rocker Gavin Rossdale brought the priciest home in Studio City

Newly single Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale is now living in the most expensive home in Studio City, Los Angeles, the New York Daily News has reported.

Recently split from ex-wife Gwen Stefani, Rossdale reportedly purchased the 7,846-square-foot home for $7.6 million. It comes complete with six bedrooms and six-and-a-half baths.

The 50-year-old multiplatinum artist is now reportedly living single in the glitzy futuristic pad in the San Fernando Valley, furnished with a wine cellar, a swimming pool, an outdoor kitchen and three fire pits. Must be nice.

Oprah throws shade on Kanye

If Oprah advised you not to do something, you probably wouldn't do it — unless, of course, you're Paul McCartney. The British rock legend recently revealed that Oprah objected to his collaboration with Kanye West because of the rapper's frequent use of the n-word. "People like Oprah, who's a little conservative about that stuff, said, 'You shouldn't do it, even black people shouldn't use that word,'" McCartney told John Wilson of BBC Radio 4. He decided to work with the rapper anyway, producing a joint single titled "All Day" in spite of warnings from the big O herself.

"I love Kanye and he loves me," McCartney said. "He's a monster — he's a crazy guy who comes up with great stuff so he inspires me."

Kanye: 1, Oprah: 0.

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On 'Chewbacca Mom' and happy stories

Candace Payne, aka "Chewbacca Mom," went viral with her joyous cackling over a tricked-out Chewie mask. YOUTUBE

If you've been on the Internet at all this past week, you've likely seen Chewbacca Mom, aka Candace Payne. In her viral video, she filmed herself putting on a Chewbacca mask that she'd bought at Kohl's. It roars by itself, and her absolute joy and infectious laughter had everyone laughing along with her. She just couldn't contain herself, and if you didn't at least giggle while watching, you have no soul.

The video landed her on "The Late Late Show with James Corden," where "Star Wars" director J.J. Abrams joined in the fun. Even he couldn't help but howl as she laughed in that mask. If Peter Mayhew doesn't go hug this woman, all is not right with the world.

As I was writing about it, I couldn't stop grinning. It set the tone for my entire day. By the time I was done, I had resolved to watch something happy every morning before starting to work. After talking to friends about all of the negative stuff we have to write about, I realized that it really does affect our day. Crappy stories about politics, news of yet another musician's death, depressing statistics about pay disparity between genders and races, hateful words being flung because someone just wants to use the bathroom — by the end of the day (or, hell, the end of the hour), it's hard to believe there is anything left to laugh about.

Endless studies have shown that constantly watching or reading about bad news will have negative effects on your life and relationships. There is something to be said for letting some of the terrible things in the world go for a little while and watching someone laugh. Laughter is contagious. Even just smiling is contagious — endless studies have shown that, too. You can experience it for yourself while watching the video. It's lovely.

I'm so tired of feeling jaded. It's exhausting. Sometimes I just need something wonderful, even if it's a cat video, a laughing little kid or even a woman delighted by a Chewbacca mask. So do yourself a favor and watch it again. Do it before you have to walk through your office door. It soothes the soul.

JENNA BUSCH

Geek Girl in Hollywood

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. For more columns, visit metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, Legion of Leia. (legionofleia.com)

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Daphne Guinness: A rock star for real

"You've got to understand what you're saying. ... There's not one word I don't mean."

RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

Daphne Guinness already looks like a rock star. The 48-year-old philanthropist, muse and visionary of the arts is breaking new ground this month with her first full-length album, "Optimist in Black." The 14-track album was produced by David Bowie's longtime producer, Tony Visconti, and early releases — including the haunting, steampunk ballad "Marionettes" and the addictive "The Long Now" — provide a taste of what's to come. The full-length album documents a period of tragedy, beauty and, of course, great art in Guinness' very public life, as written by her own pen.

Am I right in saying that you're classically trained? Did that influence your approach to music at all?

I'm trying to relearn theory. I suffer from perfect pitch and — this is probably being too technical — but music theory makes a lot of sense to me, it's like math and physics. I can get the key immediately by hearing it, but writing [a song] down, other people are faster at that than me.

However, there are a lot of people who can hit notes, and I can hit them, but you've got to understand what you're saying, and that's what's very important about this album. There's not one word that I don't mean. Being classically trained isn't great for rock and roll — you can hit the notes, but if you don't understand the groove or have the beats, it's like you're not feeling the song.

You were able to work with producer Tony Visconti, who is best known for working with David Bowie for decades — and of course, the album has a Bowie-esque vibe. What has that been like for you?

Tony is Buddha. He's so amazing. I can't believe I get to walk into his studio and play what I had. He's the most musical person on earth and a proper artist. He's not someone who suffers fools and if you're not doing [a project] right, he'll tell you. That speaks volumes.

The album is called "Optimist in Black." Is the "optimist" supposed to be you?

That was a very, very dark period of my life. It was trying to make sense out of poetry and not do what my friends

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Guinness' debut drops May 27. GETTY IMAGES

did. I had so many people die on me, it's too much.

And writing about that period of time was helpful?

Of course, and my writing process is lyrics. Getting it down to 14 songs was really something. I understand the lyrics have to make something so it's not just a pointless exercise. "Optimist" was the material of my depression. If I had gone music deeper than I probably wouldn't be here.

Do you write all the time?

Absolutely, but I see with my fashion friends, they're under contract to produce and do collection after another collection. If someone was telling me to [write songs], I would probably get writers block.

"Optimist in Black" by Daphne Guinness drops May 27.

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Sustainability has been cropping up on menus for years, just not by that name. Seasonal produce, little-known fish, dishes made from "food waste" and less meat are all facets of an issue that feels too big for regular people to tackle. But whether out of social consciousness or personal belief, chefs are beginning to serve up their philosophies on their plate, becoming advocates to protect the world we all share — and improve the lives of the people they feed. Meet four chefs working to change food for the better.

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Graffiti Earth is a meditation on life

Chef Jehangir Mehta's 10-year-old East Village cubbyhole of a restaurant, Graffiti, serves the kind of cuisine that makes New York Magazine throw up its hands and call it "eclectic."

Not much has changed about the acclaimed food at **Graffiti Earth**, his follow-up now open inside a living room-style dining space in the lobby of the Duane Street Hotel. But the name should be a clue that a lot of other ideas are brewing.

"Most people when they say 'sustainable,' they just stop at food, and we don't want to stop at food," he says.

Mehta didn't stop at much else, either. The environmentally conscious touches at the original Graffiti — scrap paper is stapled together to make the order pads, menus are artfully charred to hide stains so they can be reused — have expanded to importing cloth scraps from India to make napkins, cutting used bottles to make drinking glasses, and getting all of his cutlery and plates through donations from family and friends.

Graffiti Earth is Jehangir Mehta's idea of how to live a better life. PROVIDED

When it comes to the food, Mehta gets sustainably harvested fish, broken scallops ("there's no market for them") and oysters, as well as seaweed and kelp ("a lot of sea vegetables are underutilized"). In about six months, he's hoping to source his vegetables from a public school-run hydroponic farm. Until then, he's working with "ugly" fruits and vegetables that grocers reject, which he learned about through The Pledge, the food program he runs at the University of Massachusetts where many of these ideas were born in a push toward a zero-waste food station.

But there's more at work even there — students who show they'd walked 2,000 steps by lunchtime eat for free; so do ones who agree not to use their cellphones. "We want to showcase in every possible way how life can be better on all these different levels," he says.

This dual focus on the environment and wellbeing are all part of the better world that Mehta believes in, which emphasizes compassion and self-improvement (mental and physical): "We want to add layers to what we do and how we can be better in terms of people, in term of charity, in terms of what we personally can do on a day-to-day basis."

Bringing politics into the kitchen

"Chef" is pretty far down on **Tom Colicchio**'s list of job titles these days. The grand poobah of "Top Chef" can be found advocating for legislation to label GMOs, speaking out about how to fight hunger in American communities and agricultural subsidy reform, just to name a few issues he's taken to heart since becoming closely acquainted with a personal story of hunger.

Six years ago his wife was mentoring a young girl whom they learned was going hungry at her private school, which didn't serve breakfast or lunch. His wife ended up making a film, "A Place at the Table," and Colicchio never got off the soapbox it provided. "We learned very quickly that the problems that we had in this country was not a lack of resources but bad policies, and therefore bad politics," he says.

Tom Colicchio has become a cheftivist. GETTY IMAGES

He's worked with organizations like the Environmental Working Group and created Food Policy Action to create a coalition of food-motivated voters and elected officials.

Between congressional hearings, he's also bringing the issue of health into the place that's most vital and at the same time neglected: home kitchens. The life insurance company John Hancock has partnered with Colicchio to promote its new HealthyFood program: Policyholders can get back up to $600 a year for buying healthy foods at over 16,000 grocery stores.

Even with the right ingredients, what we value as food has its own issues. "Certainly we fetishize food, probably because of food TV, the role that chefs play in pop culture these days, without a doubt we're all guilty of that," Colicchio acknowledges. "I think the problem is it creates this performance anxiety when some cooks are cooking at home, when the average home cook sees all this complicated, fancy stuff."

But if you're ever lucky enough to score an invite to Colicchio's table, expect a totally different experience. "When I'm at home, it's a simple roast chicken, it's a simple pasta dish, it's vegetables that are asparagus cooked with some olive oil or peas, whatever is in season." That sounds doable.

Hugh Acheson with his Cremini-Lamb Burger KEN GOODMAN

Still in your comfort zone

Making a dish most people already love healthier, more sustainable and cheaper? The **Blended Burger Project** is that kind of delicious idea. Started by the James Beard Foundation last year, it challenges chefs to create burger patties that swap out at least 25 percent of the meat for mushrooms.

"It's a simple challenge, but with a really great potential to change how Americans enjoy this classic American food," says Kris Moon, vice president of the James Beard Foundation.

For its second year, about 500 restaurants are expected to take part nationwide; NYC participants include Brooklyn's Lorimer Market, Umami Burger, The Cecil (on its new delivery-only menu) and The Ainsworth properties. The burgers will launch on Memorial Day and stay on menus through July 31.

On hand to make the burger that would kick off the project was chef Hugh Acheson, who blended upstate lamb with a 30 percent ratio of creminis that had been pulverized and slowly cooked with garlic, shallots and thyme, then topped it with Boursin ("the Velveeta of France"), grilled tomato and dill pickles on a potato roll. The mushrooms created a complexity that lamb can lack but weren't a distinctive presence — which is the idea when it comes to converting our favorite comfort foods into something that better resembles a reasonable eating decision.

"It's gotten a lot easier to advance the idea of a vegetable-rich diet because 20 years ago somehow, someone, somewhere learned how to cook vegetables," he says. "Now we know how to impress you with a plate of Brussels sprouts and make a charred carrot salad that you'll happily pay $15 for."

The rising cost of meat isn't negligible, either — "I'm not sure if you've noticed how your steak has gotten a lot smaller in the last 10 years?" — which has forced chefs to take vegetables more seriously. And the results will benefit everyone. "If you can have every kid eating something like a blended burger at school," he says, "you are changing the way America eats and you're changing the health and livelihood of people."

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Listings

MUSIC

Ratzke's "Starman"

May 26, 9:30 p.m.
Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St.
$20, joespub.com
No one said we had to move on yet from the sudden loss of David Bowie. Tonight's your last chance to catch Dutch-German pop star Ratzke performing an original musical dedicated to the late rock legend. "Starman" blends Bowie's hits with original music in a meta mind-trip (as if Ratzke is Bowie is Ziggy Stardust).

FILM

Free Summer Movies

May 26-Sept. 15
Locations vary
Free, nycgovparks.org
You know it's officially summer when free outdoor movies return. Kicking off tonight with "Jaws" at the Williamsbridge Oval in Brooklyn, the Free Summer Movies series continues through Sept. 15's finale of "Ghost" in Hunter's Point South Park in Queens. Additional offerings range from classic romances like "Dirty Dancing" to modern blockbusters like "Jurassic World."

WINE

Brooklyn Uncorked

May 26, 6-9 p.m.
Edible Brooklyn
26 Bridge St., Brooklyn
$70-$80, ediblemanhattan.com
You don't need to be a Brooklynite or a wino to get behind Brooklyn Uncorked. The festival not only showcases dozens of New York state wineries, it also features tastes from restaurants across NYC, including Orwasher's Bakery, Lombardi's Love Lane Market and more.

PARTY

"Arrested Development" Party

May 27, 9:30 p.m.
Videology, 308 Bedford Ave.
$5, videologybarandcinema.com
Videology Bar and Cinema is known for its pop culture-themed parties and events. But for some reason, its TV Hangover series is just getting around to the cult classic "Arrested Development." It almost makes sense for the sitcom that was never loved enough in its time. But your cries have been heard, and the party arrives Friday showing top episodes, with trivia and drinking games.

PROVIDED

ART

Coney Art Walls

May 27-October, 12-10 p.m.
3050 Stillwell Ave., Coney Island
Free, coneyartwalls.com
Instead of dodging police and unhappy neighbors, street artists get a warm welcome on Coney Island to create murals. The result, Coney Art Walls, returns this Friday with 21 new works, featuring established artists as well as aspiring talent from a local community center, all co-curated by a former director of L.A.'s Museum of Contemporary Art. EVA KIS

ARTS

Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit

May 28-30, 12-6 p.m.
Washington Square Park
Free, wsoae.org
One of the city's oldest annual art fairs returns this weekend to celebrate its 85th year. The sidewalk show, which traces its origins back to Jackson Pollock's Depression-era residence in Greenwich Village, features primarily New York artists but also welcomes talent from all over the world. It also offers a range of mixed media, from jewelry and glass to paintings and photography. If you can't make it out this weekend, there will be an encore of the fest on June 4-5.

FOOD

Umami: A Yummy Tour of Little Tokyo

May 28, 12-1:30 or 2:30-4 p.m.
101 Astor Place
$29, brooklynbrainery.com
Take a bite out of Japanese food trends in the East Village this weekend on this walk-and-taste tour. "Historic gastronomist" Sarah Lohman will lead an educational exploration of an area that's only recently come into its own as an authentic Asian outpost. Participants meet up at 101 Astor Place. Your ticket includes four tastings, ranging from sweet desserts to salty ramen, and a high probability of bubble tea.

PARTY

Sweet Spot Nation

May 28-29, 7 p.m.
Santos Party House
96 Lafayette St.
$20-$60, sweetspotnation.com
Busy adding sizzle to the other 30 cities worldwide where this party travels, Sweet Spot Nation finally returns to NYC in time to spice up your Memorial Day Weekend. Part performance, part dance party, this pop erotica event mixes burlesque, fashion, music, body art, comedy and more, with an emphasis on the sensual.

FILM

Dinner and a Movie: "Purple Rain"

May 28, 7-9:30 p.m.
City Winery, 155 Varick St.
$40, citywinery.com
Continue binging on the Purple One's most memorable works with this screening of "Purple Rain." Part of a special dinner-and-a-movie event, attendees will dine from a three-course prix fixe menu (beverages are extra) while watching the 1984 movie inspired by the landmark album of the same name. T. MICHELLE MURPHY

5 Under-the-radar destinations

Great spots where you won't have to fight the crowds this summer.

Fodor's Travel

During the hottest days of summer, sometimes you just want to escape the tourist throngs, bustling sights and crowded beaches. With so many people on the move all around the world, why not turn your attention to these understated and peacefully crowd-free destinations? In these calmer getaways, you can meet locals, enjoy regional cuisine and explore untouched oases. Plan a more peaceful summer escape with our list of five under-the-radar summer escapes. ANISHA SHAH

Enjoy the best of the sea and mountains in Corsica, France. GETTY IMAGES

Aeolian Islands, Panarea

Unlike more upscale Capri and Sardinia, Panarea is a haven of understated pedigree and elegance. Cars are not allowed on the island, so you'll have to hike or take a golf cart to see the Bronze Age ruins. Also be sure to make time for a scuba diving excursion to explore a shipwreck off the coast.

Insider Tip: You'll want to make reservations well in advance, but the island does offer some surprisingly affordable accommodations.

Lubec, Maine

Tourism is low-key yet wildly rewarding in this northern U.S. locale. Lubec's historical harmony with the sea and its close ties to the Canadian Maritimes are securing its future as a peaceful retreat to escape from modern life.

Insider Tip: With a wealth of picturesque waterfront cottages and chalet accommodations, you'll have plenty of options when it comes to where to stay. Peacock House is a blissful sanctuary complete with a piano, fireplace and airy deck.

Liechtenstein

Nestled between Switzerland and Austria, this tiny nation is blessed with outstanding natural beauty. The idyllic setting is an almost surreal hideaway nestled in the Rhine Valley, with villages scattered among lush, rolling mountains.

Insider Tip: The Relais & Chateaux Park Hotel Sonnenhof has an enviably superior perch overlooking the city of Vaduz.

Bantayan Island, Philippines

A collection of tiny green islands, Bantayan is north of Cebu in the Visayan Sea. These lesser-known lush islands are covered in mangrove and palm trees, making them a great place for a natural retreat. For the best beaches, head to Santa Fe, Patao or Madridejos.

Insider Tip: Pay extra for the sea-view cottage at Kota Beach Resort to have direct access to the curved shoreline of powder-white sand. Island-hop to Virgin Island for translucent emerald waters and the feel of a private island paradise.

Corsica, France

Welcome to France, but not as you know it. Whether you're looking for beaches, culture, hiking or diving, compact Corsica has it, engulfed in striking massif and scenic shorelines. Glistening bays and glorious cities are crowned by dramatic peaks, complete with luxurious restaurants for long lazy lunches.

Insider Tip: While the beach is breathtaking, consider a stay at the Hotel La Dimora, a charming, centuries-old restored villa in the Corsican countryside.

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#NEVERFLOP — NBA PLAYERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF REFS

SID ROSENBERG

OPINION

Sid Rosenberg co-hosts 'The Bernie and Sid Show' on WABC in New York. You can reach him on Twitter @SidRosenberg

#Neverflop.

Flopping has become one of the most controversial topics in the NBA since 2012, when the NBA began fining players for the act. The NBA's official rule book defines flopping as any physical act that appears to have been intended to cause the referees to call a foul on another player. The reason the rule was implemented was that players had become increasingly adept at duping referees into blowing their whistles by exaggerating contact. But the fines have not yet quelled the flopping issue. It is pathetic, and has taken away from the integrity of the game.

NBA players are using their athletic prowess and amateur acting skills to manipulate referees into calling fouls where there is little or no contact. In the blink of an eye, referees have to make knee-jerk reactions to either make a call or not make a call. More often than not referees make the right call and are consistent when making calls. And that right there — consistency — is one reason players continue to flop.

Referees make adjustments for every game and for every team because no two teams play at the same pace and no two players have the same repertoire of moves. As a whole, referees remain consistent in the calls the make. Because referees strive to be consistent, players are able to manipulate the referees by simply figuring out what the referees will let them get away with when it comes to foul calls. Players, specifically the "superstars" of the NBA, will manipulate the referees into making foul calls that look like the same fouls they have been calling, but in reality the player has hoodwinked the referees.

I know what you're thinking. "Well, if the player can get away with it, why should he be penalized?"

In the defense of the players, it is not totally their fault that the referees are vulnerable to manipulation, as they are human beings just as we are. But I do blame the players to a certain extent for taking advantage of the referees. A basketball player's goal is to put the ball in the basket and to stop his opponent from doing the same. A referee's purpose on the court is to hold up the integrity of the game by enforcing the rules. It is that simple. Players should not be looking to manipulate the referees to gain an advantage. But players do, and in return the players who play the referees get preferred treatment from them.

The 2016 NBA Playoffs have already had a bunch of controversy in regard to foul calls. The Warriors' Draymond Green delivered a swift leg kick to the groin of the Thunder's Steven Adams after Green drove into the lane and Adams contested his layup. Looking at his objectively, Green got into the body of Adams, exaggerated the move he made to the bucket, and ended up kicking Adams. I do not think Green intentionally kicked Adams, but I do believe Green flopped. An unusual flop, but a flop nonetheless.

It is incidents like this that need to be ridded from the game. #NeverFlop.

Golden State's Draymond Green and head coach Steve Kerr argue a call with referee Tony Brothers #25 in the second quarter against the Oklahoma City Thunder. GETTY IMAGES

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NYCFC looks to move on from worst loss in franchise history

What's next for City after getting slammed —again — by the Red Bulls?

TONY WILLIAMS
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NYCFC's Steven Mendoza pushes the ball upfield against the Red Bulls. GETTY IMAGES

The New York City Football Club may still be ahead of the New York Red Bulls in the standings, but when it comes to Gotham supremacy, the city is still painted red.

Such is the plight of NYCFC following a shocking 7-0 drubbing at the hands of the Red Bulls last Sunday at Yankee Stadium. The Blue was once again beaten by its cross-river rival — they have yet to beat the Harrison, New Jersey, franchise in four career matchups.

It was the most lopsided beating in the series' two-year history and equals the largest margin of victory in Major League Soccer history. The Red Bulls' win equaled the Los Angeles Galaxy 8-1 beating of the Dallas Burn in 1998 and a 7-0 thrashing by the Chicago Fire over the Kansas City Wizards in 2001.

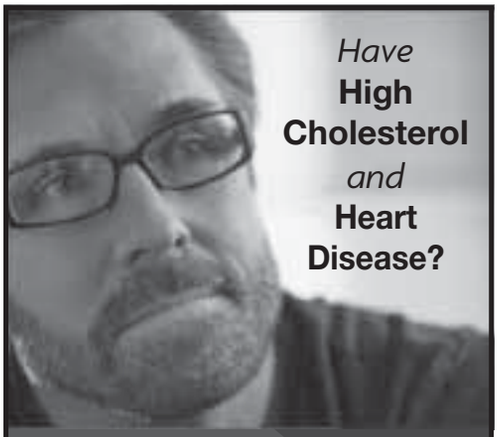
The loss dropped City to second in the Eastern Conference standings, behind the Philadelphia Union who, at 18 points, are one point ahead. The victory propelled the Red Bulls from eighth to third at 16 points.

Blue's loss wasn't a shock in terms of the Red Bulls getting the best of them — that's happened every time. It was how they were defeated. City, an affiliate of English Premier League power Manchester City, has made it known how heavily invested its European big brother is in them. And with several veteran European superstars like David Villa, Andrea Pirlo, and Frank Lampard on its roster, it's been disheartening for the ardent fanbase to see its beloved squad so manhandled.

Especially when the size of the contracts of some of its stars is considered, it's no wonder City Manager Patrick Vieira deemed the loss a "disaster."

Villa, Pirlo and Lampard are among the top-10 highest-paid players in the league, so for them to earn their respective keep, they'll need to step up their performances and help the squad quickly recover from its last shellacking.

City will no doubt be anxious to get back on the pitch and get that nasty Red Bull taste out of their mouths. And that next chance will be Sunday, May 29, at home, against Orlando City.



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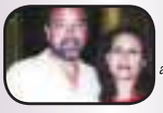

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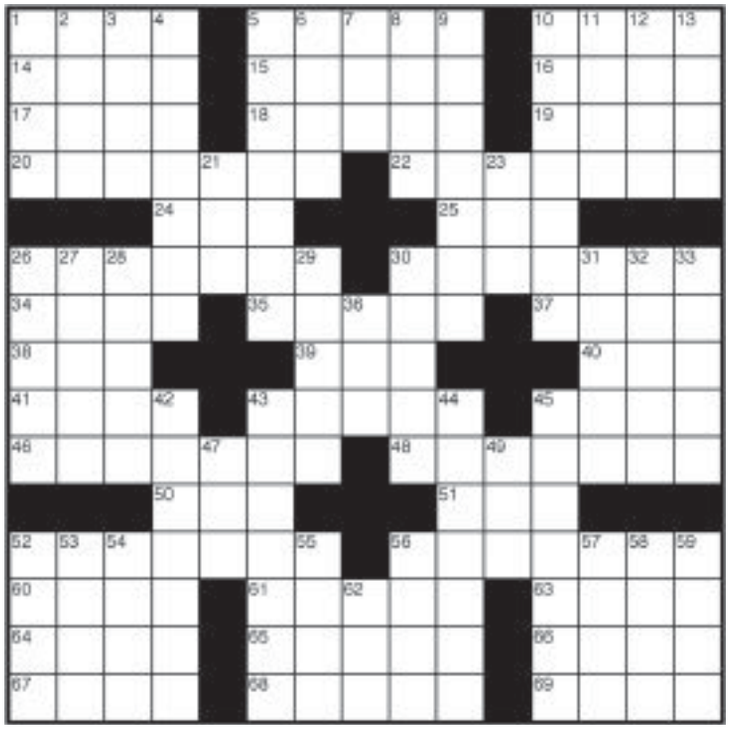

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1 Stir-fry pans
5 Baked-potato garnish
10 "Sparkling wine" town
14 Pursue game
15 Less polite
16 Chess piece
17 Huron neighbor
18 Mind's-eye view
19 Goody-goody
20 Regards highly
22 Land
24 "Antiques Roadshow" network
25 Crumpet go-with
26 Tennis gofer (2 wds.)
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61 Red Sea peninsula
63 Get poison ivy
64 Eye amorously
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66 Where hackles rise
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68 Storm drain
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2 Mine and thine
3 Clingy fabric
4 Bell tower
5 Embarrassed
6 Whirs
7 NW state
8 First-magnitude star
9 Put up
10 Is attractive
11 Paretsky of whodunits
12 Nesting need
13 "Picnic" author
21 Wane
23 Dream phenom
26 Tack
27 Quaking tree
28 Lofty capital
29 Hindu mystics
30 Festivities
31 Deduce
32 1950s war site
33 Furry Jedi allies
36 Gibson of "Braveheart"
42 Smudged
43 Advantages
44 More suspicious
45 Nutty confection
47 911 responder
49 NASA counterpart
52 Goddess's statue
53 Huge, in combos
54 Sanskrit dialect
55 Gael republic
56 Use hip boots
57 Coup d'—
58 Sales slip (abbr.)
59 Mets' former stadium
62 This moment

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easy

	9				6	5		
5			8					
7						8	3	2
		5	7	8			2	6
			5	9	2			
2	3			4	1	7		
1	2	6						5
					5			9
		7	1				8	

hard

					7			6
			3	5			9	
	2			9	6		1	
2	1		6				4	7
7				4				2
4	3				9		8	1
	8		9	6			2	
	4			1	3			
1			2					

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Aries If you negotiate on your own behalf, you will make financial and contractual gains. A physical change is favored. A romantic celebration will enhance your love life.

Taurus Don't disregard what others say or offer. Working in unison with those willing to match you every step of the way will ensure that you reach your goal.

Gemini Partnerships will be intense. Put your energy into passionate encounters, not into disagreements or trying to lavishly please someone who is giving you a hard time.

Cancer Jump in. Standing on the sidelines waiting to be asked to join the party is not going to help you get ahead. Stand tall and show off your unique attributes.

Leo Get involved in a project that will stimulate your senses. A change and a challenge will help motivate and inspire you to bring about overdue personal changes.

Virgo Don't underestimate a situation when dealing with partners or matters concerning your work. Travel, interactions with children and openness to suggestions are all favored.

Libra A competitive approach will show others that you aren't a pushover. Express your will through your actions. It's what you do that will help you gain the respect of others.

Scorpio Be aware of what others are up to. Friends and relatives will meddle if you let them. Stick close to home and do your own thing. A creative project will ease your stress.

Sagittarius Anger is the enemy. Put your energy into activities that encourage positive change. Offer compassion and affection instead of criticism or neglect. Avoid excess.

Capricorn If an opportunity presents itself, make your move. Contracts, settlements and anything that can put you one step above your current position should be taken advantage of.

Aquarius Get involved in activities that will motivate you. Make physical changes at home that will improve your living arrangements. A romantic gesture will bring good results.

Pisces Don't share your plans. Someone will take advantage of you or take credit for your ideas. Take your time and make sure you have left no detail unattended to. EUGENIA LAST

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